

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01349 172211Z

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-03 SS-14 /024 W

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R 171850Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9696

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STADIS//////////

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FOR ARA/BC/FIMBRES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EFIN, HBL

SUBJ: OPIC POLICY/SEMINARS IN BOLIVIA

REF: STATE 36553

1. OPIC POSITION AS DESCRIBED IS NOT COMPLETE BUT SINCE IT CLARIFIES POLICY TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, I HAVE AUTHORIZED GURR TO GO AHEAD WITH TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEMINAR. THEREFORE, IF WE AND OPIC REACH FULL AGREEMENT THEN SEMINAR CAN PROCEED ON BASIS OF HIS ARRANGEMENTS. IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN FULLY SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDING, THEN I WILL RECOMMEND THAT SEMINAR BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED.

2. POINTS NOT CLEAR ARE:

(A) OPIC HAS NOT GIVEN APPROVAL OF PUBLIC STATEMENT CONTAINED IN LA PAZ 303. SENTENCE OF IMPORTANCE IS THAT WHICH STATES OPIC WILL NOT NORMALLY ISSUE INSURANCE FOR EQUITY INVESTMENTS IN FARMING, RANCHING OR IN EXTRACTION OF MINERALS AND PETROLEUM. WHILE WE SEE MERITS IN PUBLIC STATEMENT, WE WOULD AGREE TO THIS AS WITHIN USG POLICY STATEMENT IF IT GUIDED OPIC ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ORAL DISCUSSIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE WITH INSURANCE APPLICANTS.

(B) OPIC IN PARA 1.A OF REFTEL MENTIONES ITS VIEW THAT INVESTMENT

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IN SIZEABLE LAND HOLDINGS ARE SENSITIVE. I BELIEVE THAT SIZE IS

HARD TO DEFINE. WHAT IS SMALL IN BENI FOR CATTLE MAY BE HUGE IN SANTA CRUZ FOR SOYA. I THUS PREFER TO STICK TO POSITION AGAINST ALL LAND HOLDINGS UNLESS AN EASILY UNDERSTOOD AND PRACTICAL DEFINITION OF SIZE CAN BE ESTABLISHED.

(D) OPIC HAS NOT INDICATED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF OBVIOUS INTENT OF OUR MESSAGES TO HAVE OPIC PUT EMPHASIS OF SEMINAR ON PROCESSING RATHER THAN RAW MATERIALS EXTRACTION. PUBLIC RELATIONS BENEFITS OF OPIC STIMULATION OF INTERMEDIATE STAGE OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY WILL BE GREAT. OPIC AGREEMENT TO DE-EMPHASIZE, INDEED TO POINT OF DISCOURAGING, EXTRACTIVE AND LAND INVESTMENTS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

(E) OPIC SHOULD STATE THAT IT WILL NOT INSURE EQUITY INVESTMENTS FOR EXPORT TO ANDEAN COMMON MARKET.

3. POSSIBLY WE HAVE NOT MADE CLEAR THAT WE WORRY THAT OPIC SEMINAR AND FOLLOW-ON INVESTORS VISIT WILL STIMULATE APPLICATIONS FOR THE VERY ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL CAUSE FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS, UNLESS WE CONVINCE OPIC TO TAILOR ITS EFFORTS TOWARD AREAS OF AGREEMENT. WE DO NOT WANT WIDE-OPEN, ALL EMBRACING KIND OF PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF WHAT OPIC CHARTER PERMITS IT TO DO. WE WISH ACTIVITIES TO CONFORM TO OUR VIEWS OF WHAT IS WISE ON FOREIGN POLICY GROUNDS.

4. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER EFFORTS AT REACHING FULL AGREEMENT ON POLICY AND ON POLICY STATEMENT TO GUIDE SEMINAR. STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSURANCE, POLICIES, INVESTMENTS, SEMINARS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAPAZ01349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760059-0430
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760244/aaaabmdk.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS; LIMDIS, STADIS
Reference: 76 STATE 36553
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <13 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPIC POLICY/SEMINARS IN BOLIVIA
TAGS: EINV, EFIN, OPIC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006